

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY
COURT DISTRICT OF
MASSACHUSETTS (CENTRAL
DIVISION)**

In re:

GEORGE L. COTE,

Debtor.

**Chapter 7
Case No. 15-42383-CJP**

DEBTOR'S ATTORNEY'S MOTION TO BE REMOVED AS DEBTOR'S COUNSEL

Debtor's Counsel respectfully seeks the Court's permission to allow Debtor's Counsel to be removed from representation of Debtor, George L. Cote (Debtor) based upon a total breakdown of the attorney/client relationship and Debtor's Counsel's inability to arrange for substitute counsel at Northeast Legal Aid (NLA), which organization assigned the case to Debtor's Counsel when she was affiliated with NLA as a part-time contract worker.

1. Current Debtor's Counsel was assigned the Debtor's active collection case by Northeast Legal Aid when another attorney left that organization. Debtor's Counsel had worked for NLA as a volunteer since 2009 and as a part-time contract attorney since 2012, primarily in the area of debt collection defense and Chapter 7 relief.
2. After lengthy discussion with the Debtor regarding Debtor's options, and after assurance from Debtor that he understood all of the requirements necessary to receive Chapter 7 relief, on December 7, 2015, Debtor's Counsel filed a petition under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101-1532 on behalf of the Debtor.

3. Shortly after the date of filing, Debtor's Counsel's relationship with Debtor suffered irreparable damage. Debtor's Counsel has not spoken or otherwise communicated with Debtor since December 18, 2015. From that time, Debtor and Debtor's Counsel communicated entirely through Stefanie Balandis, the newly appointed Assistant Director of NLA who started at the Lowell Office of NLA, on or around December, 2015.

4. Debtor's Counsel requested on several occasions, that representation of Debtor be transferred to another attorney, but submitted to Ms. Balandis' request that Debtor's Counsel stay on the case through the Bankruptcy Code § 341(a) (the "§ 341(a) Meeting") due to lack of an experienced replacement within the organization.

5. On March 28, 2016, Debtor's Counsel left the employ of NLA, and provided the organization with a drafted and signed copy of a Request to Withdraw as Counsel and Allow Substitution of Counsel.

6. To date, Debtor's Counsel is not aware that any motion for substitute counsel has been filed.

7. Debtor's Counsel is aware of Standing Order 2013-02 and the court's clarity on the issue of attorney withdrawal. Debtor's Counsel is also aware of her ethical responsibility to zealously represent Debtor, but finds that it is not possible to do so for a client with who she is not in communication, and over whom she has had no influence since December 18, 2015.

For all reasons stated above, I, Robin L. Munson, respectfully request that the Court approve my Motion to Be Removed as Debtor's Counsel.

Submitted this day, April 9, 2016, by :

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin L. Munson", written in a cursive style.

Robin L. Munson

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Robin L. Munson, do hereby certify that on this day, April 9, 2016, I did serve a true and accurate copy of the above pleading upon those persons registered with the Court's ECF system, pursuant to the ECF system:

Richard T. King, Esq.
Assistant U.S. Trustee
Office of U.S. Trustee
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Joseph H. Baldiga
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Additionally I served a true and accurate copy of the pleading upon those persons listed immediately below by first class mail postage prepaid on this day, April 9, 2016:

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Revenue Litigation Bureau, Bankruptcy Unit P.O. Box 9564 Boston, MA 02114-9564	Internal Revenue Service Special Process Unit P.O. Box 9112 Boston, MA 02203	Internal Revenue Service Centralized Insolvency Operation PO Box 7346 Philadelphia, PA 19101-7346
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